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STAR TREK

THE NEXT GENERATION

DOCTOR WHO



ASSIMILATION

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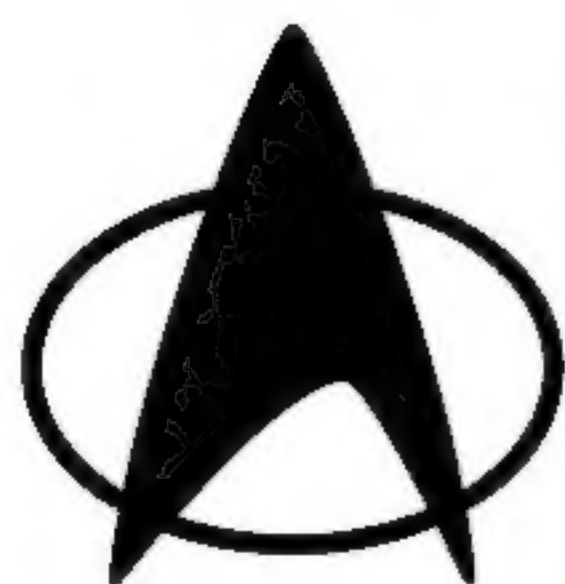
ASSIMILATION

The story so far...

The Doctor is an alien, the last of the powerful Time Lords. He is an intrepid traveller through time and space, armed only with his incredible intelligence and his fix-anything sonic screwdriver. He travels alone, except for the human companions he befriends, briefly sharing his life with them and showing them the astonishing wonders of the universe.

Space... the Final Frontier. These are the voyages of the *Starship Enterprise*. Its continuing mission: to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no one has gone before.

After narrowly escaping a combined Borg-Cyberman fleet, the Enterprise has found cover in a nebula. The Doctor has shared his knowledge of the Cybermen with Captain Picard, who now seeks the counsel of his trusted friend, the mysterious Guinan.



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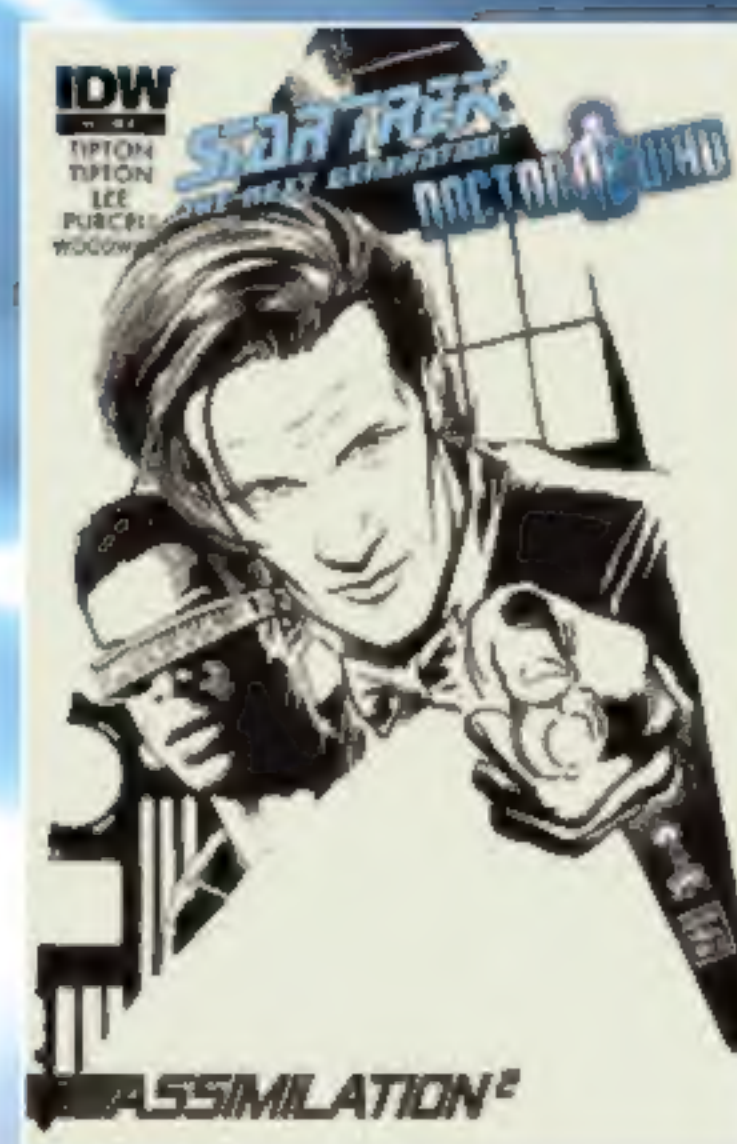
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YOU SEEM
VERY FAMILIAR
TO ME, GUINAN.
HAVE WE MET
BEFORE?

NO.

YES.

YOU SEE, THAT'S
WHAT CONCERNS ME. I
HAVE A FEELING THAT WE
KNOW EACH OTHER, BUT
THAT WE SHOULDN'T.



AHA! I KNOW
EXACTLY THAT
FEELING. AND THAT'S
HOW YOU KNOW
THE TARDIS.

YES. JUST
AS YOU'VE BEEN
AWARE OF THINGS
YOU SHOULDN'T
HAVE, IF I'M NOT
MISTAKEN.



YOU'VE BEEN
FEELING OUT OF
SORTS EVER SINCE
WE GOT HERE.

TRUE
ENOUGH, POND.
I'M BEGINNING TO
FIGURE OUT WHAT'S
GOING ON WITH
THAT, THOUGH.
AND I DON'T
LIKE IT.



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
WHY DO YOU
KNOW THESE
THINGS?

THE DOCTOR
AND I BOTH HAVE THE
ABILITY TO SENSE THINGS
OUTSIDE THE NORMAL
FLOW OF TIME, CAPTAIN.
AND WHEN THAT FLOW IS...
DISTURBED, WE'RE
BOTH AFFECTED.



YOU DON'T BELONG HERE. YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE.

I KNOW.



I THOUGHT THE BORG WERE AS BAD AS IT GETS; NOW WE HAVE THEM JOINING UP WITH THESE CYBERMEN. SOMEHOW THEY HAVE ALTERED THE PAST IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS NEW FUTURE WHERE THEY COULD JOIN FORCES WITH THE BORG.

YES. I THOUGHT I STOPPED THE CYBERMEN IN THE PAST, WITH THE HELP OF YOUR PREDECESSOR, CAPTAIN, BUT CLEARLY I WAS NOT ENTIRELY SUCCESSFUL.

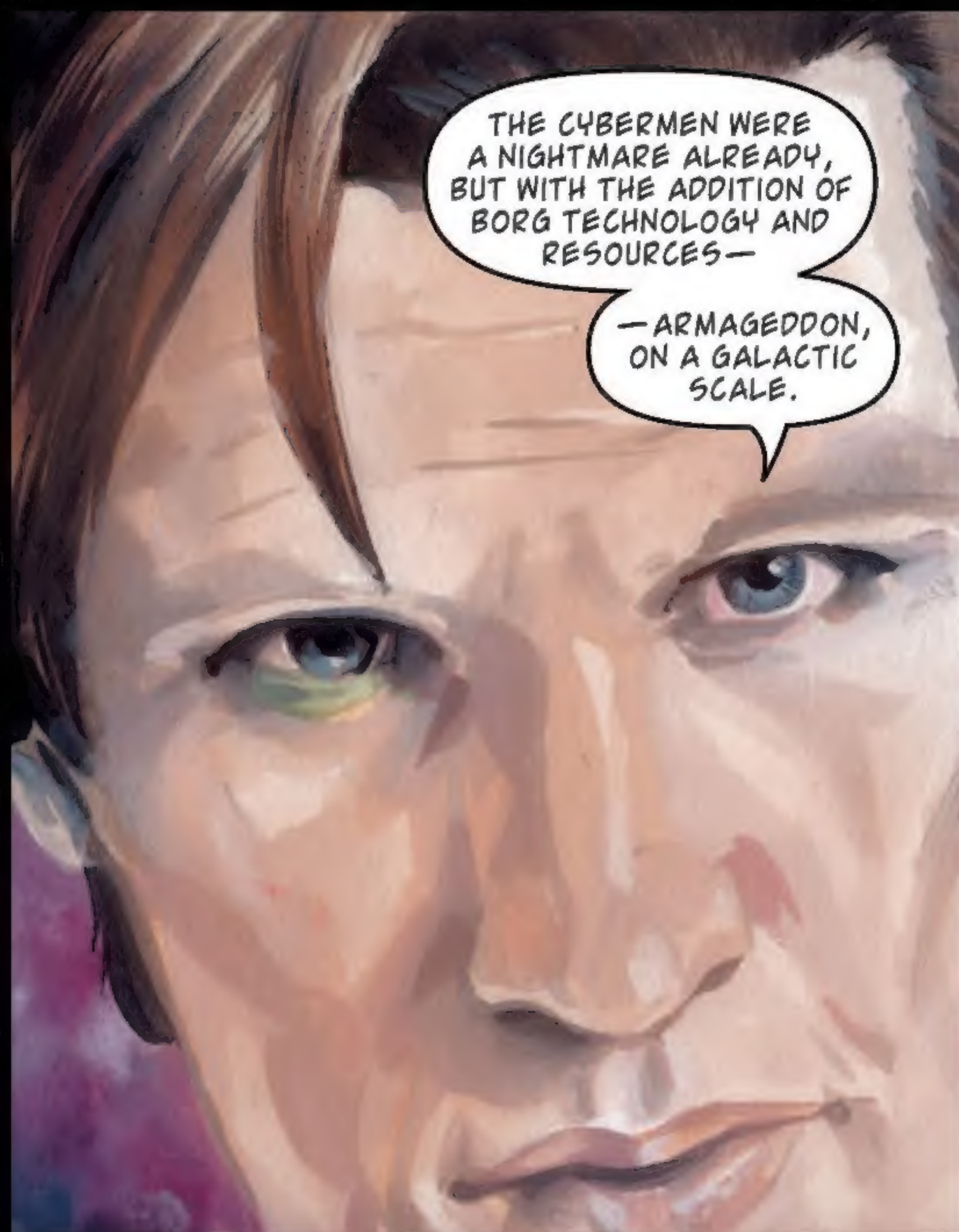


THE CYBERMEN HAVE BROUGHT TWO UNIVERSES TOGETHER IN ORDER TO CREATE THIS ALLIANCE WITH THE BORG.

WHAT DO THEY WANT? WHY DO ALL THIS?



THEY WANT COMPLETE DOMINION, RORY. THEY WANT TO CONTROL EVERYTHING, AND THEY WANT US ALL EITHER ELIMINATED OR MADE LIKE THEM.



THE CYBERMEN WERE A NIGHTMARE ALREADY, BUT WITH THE ADDITION OF BORG TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES—

—ARMAGEDDON, ON A GALACTIC SCALE.







OUR FEAR
HAD BEEN THAT THE
COMBINED BORG-
CYBERMAN FLEET
WAS HEADING TO
EARTH.

AND THAT'S
NO LONGER
THE CASE?

IT APPEARS NOT. WHILE
THE INITIAL FLIGHT PATH DID
LOOK TO BE DIRECTED TOWARD
EARTH'S SYSTEM, THE FLEET
HAS NOW ABRUPTLY CHANGED
COURSE, TAKING ON A NEARLY
OPPOSITE HEADING.



OPPOSITE?
BUT WHY?



INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO
MAKE A SUPPOSITION AT THIS TIME,
CAPTAIN. THE CYBERMAN AND BORG
VESSELS COMMUNICATE VIA SOME SORT
OF ENCRYPTED SUBSPACE WAVELENGTH
THAT WE ARE AS YET UNABLE
TO ACCESS.



LONG-RANGE SCANS
INDICATE THAT THIS
PLANET, COGEN V, WAS
IN THE MIDST OF BEING
ASSIMILATED WHEN THE
FLEET SUDDENLY
REVERSED ITS
COURSE.



HAVE WE
RECEIVED WORD
FROM THE
COGENIANS?

NEGATIVE. ALL
HAILS REMAIN
UNANSWERED.









TARGETS
ACQUIRED.

ON MY MARK,
LIEUTENANT...



...NOW!



KA-BOOM

KA-BOOM



GOT
YOU!



SONIC SCREWDRIVER.
OVERRIDES THE WAVELENGTH.
ONCE THE LITTLE DEVIL GOT
CLOSE ENOUGH, I WAS ABLE
TO SHUT DOWN ITS
SYSTEMS.

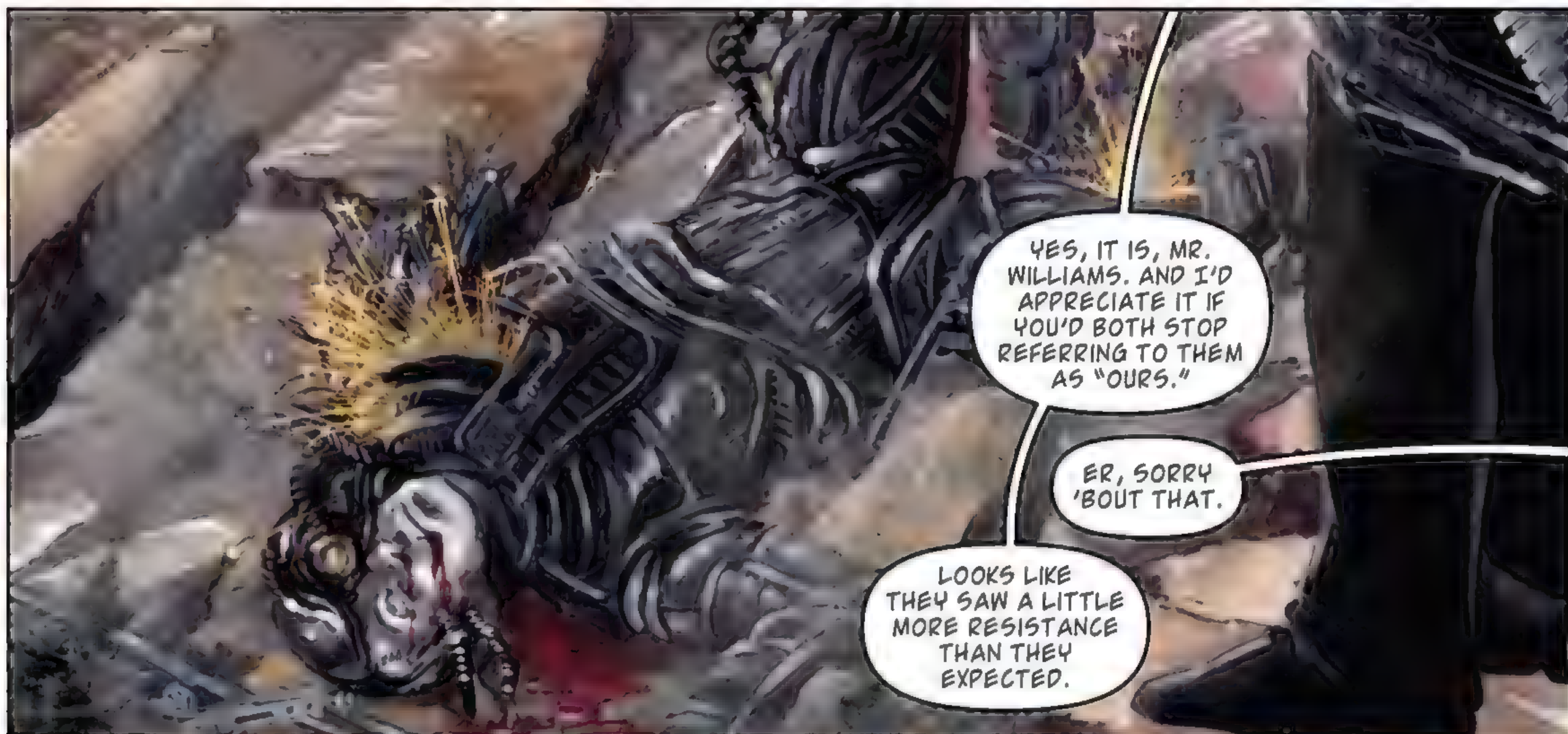
THIS MUST BE A BIT
OF LOCAL COLOR; IT'S
NOT OF CYBERMAN DESIGN,
AND IT LOOKS TOO PRETTY
TO BE ONE OF YOUR
BORG.

I THINK YOU'RE
RIGHT ABOUT
THAT, DOCTOR. THE
BORG DON'T WASTE
A LOT OF EFFORT
ON STYLING.

DOCTOR!
LOOK OVER
HERE!



THAT'S
ONE OF YOUR
BORG, RIGHT,
COMMANDER
RIKER?



YES, IT IS, MR. WILLIAMS. AND I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D BOTH STOP REFERRING TO THEM AS "OURS."

ER, SORRY 'BOUT THAT.

LOOKS LIKE THEY SAW A LITTLE MORE RESISTANCE THAN THEY EXPECTED.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND, COMMANDER. BASED ON THE DATA LOGS WE RECEIVED, THE BORG FORCES RAN RAMPANT OVER DELTA. WHAT COULD HAVE SLOWED THEM DOWN HERE?



WE HAVE MORE OVER HERE, COMMANDER.

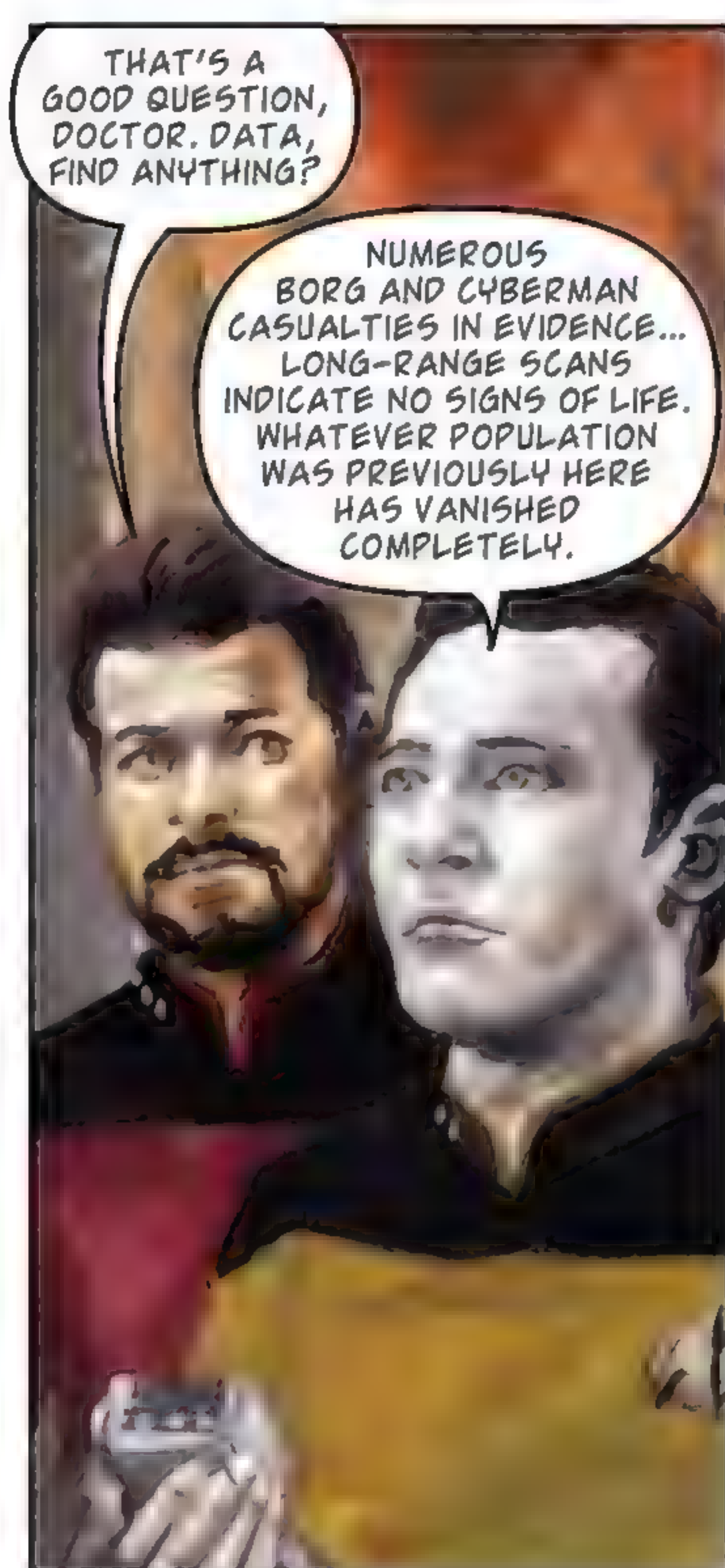
EEUGH. THEY GIVE ME THE SHIVERS.

"THE SHIVERS," MISS POND?

AH. A COLLOQUIALISM. YES, I HAVE OBSERVED THAT MY CREWMATES OFTEN FIND THE BORG... UNSETTLING.



COMMANDER! ANOTHER ONE!







LATER...

THE EVIDENCE IS UNDENIABLE, CAPTAIN. THERE WAS NO ATTACK FROM A THIRD PARTY ON THE BORG AND CYBERMAN FORCES ON COGEN V.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

THE FRAGMENTATION AND DEGRADATION PATTERNS ON THE CYBERMAN'S WOUNDS MATCH PRECISELY THOSE OF BORG CUTTING BEAMS. AND HOW ELSE COULD ENERGY WEAPONS HAVE GOTTEN PAST THE BORG SHIELDING UNLESS THAT TECHNOLOGY HAD BEEN SHARED?

THE BORG AND THE CYBERMEN WERE KILLING EACH OTHER.

KILLING EACH OTHER!

AND WHAT ABOUT THE INHABITANTS? WERE THEY ASSIMILATED LIKE THE DELTANS?

I'M AFRAID I MAY HAVE SOME ANSWERS FOR YOU, COMMANDER. I MANAGED TO PICK MY WAY THROUGH THE ELECTRONIC BRAIN OF THIS SENTRY DRONE FROM THE PLANET, AND SECURED SOME VIDEO FROM ITS MEMORY. WITH YOUR PERMISSION, DOCTOR?

OF COURSE.







THERE ARE NO SURVIVORS. BASED ON THE EXTENT OF THE DESTRUCTION, AND THE MASS OF WRECKAGE, I WOULD ESTIMATE THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE BORG SHIPS THAT WE SAW EARLIER WERE DESTROYED HERE, IN A BATTLE WITH THE VESSELS OF THE CYBERMEN.



WHERE DID THEY GO, DATA?

WARP SIGNATURES INDICATE THAT SOME BORG SHIPS RETREATED FROM THE BATTLE. THE CYBERMAN FLEET RESUMED COURSE TOWARD THE DELTA QUADRANT. TOWARD BORG SPACE, CAPTAIN.



I HAVE TO SAY, CAPTAIN, THE WAY THE CYBERMEN HAVE DISPATCHED THE BORG... I DON'T WANT TO SAY I ADMIRE IT, BUT...

AND NOW IT LOOKS LIKE THESE CYBERMEN ARE DETERMINED TO TAKE THEIR FEUD WITH THE BORG ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE BORG HOMEWORLD.



"THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY IS MY FRIEND," EH, NUMBER ONE?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.



YOU CAN'T
BE SERIOUS,
GENTLEMEN! TRUST
ME, THE CYBERMEN
ARE NOT YOUR
FRIENDS!



YOU MAY
VERY WELL
BE RIGHT,
DOCTOR.



YET, CONSIDERING
ALL THE PAIN, SUFFERING,
AND SLAVERY THAT THE
BORG HAVE BROUGHT TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION,
NOT TO MENTION THE UNTOLD
BILLIONS OF OTHER VICTIMS
OF THEIR ASSIMILATION...

...I CAN'T
HELP BUT
THINK, "GOOD
RIDDANCE."



AS I SAID,
DOCTOR, THERE
IS NO LOCUTUS, NOR
WILL THERE BE A
TRUCE. THE BORG
WILL RECEIVE NO
ASSISTANCE
FROM ME.

TO BE CONTINUED!